

A court house, jail and jail house and for other purposes be, and the same be, hereby repealed; and in lieu thereof the Hon. John Van Hook, Junior, of Burlington, in the county of Chittenden, is hereby appointed to perform all the duties imposed upon said John Smith, to do and perform by said act, and to co-operate with the Hon. Henry F. Smith, and Joseph Smith, two of the committee appointed by the act constituting the said court in all things agreeable to the directions therein contained.

(Passed Nov. 4, 1835.)

TIMOTHY WHELAN, Sec. of State.

No. 42.

An Act, granting the town of Woodbury to the county of Washington, and for other purposes.

Sec. 1. It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, That from and after the passing of this act, the town of Woodbury, in the county of Caledonia, be, and it is hereby for every purpose annexed to the county of Washington.

It is hereby further enacted, That the town of Woodbury shall, from and after the passing of this act, be annexed to the probate district of Washington.

In General Assembly, Nov. 1, 1834.

Read the third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the Governor and Council, &c.

E. D. BARRETT, Clerk.

In Council, Nov. 5, 1834.

Resolved to suspend the passage of this bill till the next session of the legislature.

G. B. MANSON, Secretary.

In General Assembly Oct. 10, 1835.

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow morning.

O. H. SMITH, Clerk pro tem.

In General Assembly Oct. 17, 1835.

Read the third time and ordered to lie on the table.

O. H. SMITH, Clerk pro tem.

In General Assembly Nov. 3, 1835.

Called up and passed, and it has become a law.

O. H. SMITH, Clerk pro tem.

RESOLUTIONS.

In General Assembly, Oct. 30, 1835.

Resolved, The Governor and Council concurring herein, That the Treasurer of the State be, and he is hereby authorized to settle and arrange, on such terms as he may think proper and equitable, all claims for taxes due previous to the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty.

(Concurred Nov. 2, 1835.)

In General Assembly, Oct. 30, 1835.

Resolved, The Governor and Council concurring herein, That the agent appointed to settle the concerns of Vermont State Bank, be, and he is hereby authorized to sell at public auction all the land to which the State of Vermont have derived a title, through said Bank, and may remain unsold, on the first of January next. Provided, said agent be of opinion that such sales will be for the interest of the state.

(Concurred Oct. 30, 1835.)

In General Assembly, Nov. 6, 1832.

Resolved, The Governor and Council concurring herein, That the superintending committee of the new State House is hereby authorized to sell and dispose of the old State House by auction, or private sale as he may think best, and apply the avails thereof towards the expenses of the new State House.

(Concurred Nov. 6, 1835.)

In General Assembly, Nov. 2, 1835.

Resolved, The Governor and Council concurring herein, That George T. Hodges of Rutland and Horace L. Nichols of Williston be and hereby are, appointed a committee to attend at the State Prison, in the month of September next, to make an appraisal and inventory of all the property belonging to said prison, and also to settle with the superintendent, and investigate all accounts of said prison and report at the next session of the legislature.

(Concurred Nov. 2, 1835.)

In Council, Nov. 10, 1835.

Resolved, The House of Representatives concurring herein, That hereafter all bills, which shall be suspended by the Governor and Council, shall be published with the laws; and the Secretary of State is hereby directed to cause such suspended bills to be so published in his annual compilation of the laws of each year.

(Concurred Nov. 10, 1835.)

24th Congress—1st Session.

IN SENATE—Wednesday, Jan. 6.

Mr. Hendricks, from the committee on Roads and Canals, reported a bill making appropriations amounting to about half a million of dollars to completing the Cumberland road in Ohio and Indiana, and continuing it in Illinois. The bill to authorize certain allowances to the American Consul at London was passed. The bill to amend the Judicial System was read the third time and passed by yeas and nays—all the members voting in the affirmative except Mr. Hill, who voted in the negative. The resolution to amend the regulations of the Senate chamber was taken up, and after being amended so as to read in the following terms, it was adopted—yeas 31, nays 11; viz:—Resolved, that the Circular Gallery of the Senate be open for the admission of spectators.

In the House of Representatives, bills were reported from the committee on Commerce to erect a Marine Hospital at Baltimore, and one at Portland. The Chair having commenced calling the States for resolutions, beginning with Maine, Mr. Jarvis offered the following:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, the subject of the Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia ought not to be entertained by Congress; and be it further resolved, that in case any petition praying the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia be hereafter presented, it is the deliberate opinion of this House that the same ought to be laid upon the table without being referred or printed.

Mr. Jarvis made some explanation of his motive in offering the resolution, and of the opinions of his constituents on this subject. Mr. J. Q. Adams moved to lay the resolution on the table, and the motion was negatived—yeas 66, nays 123.

Mr. Wise moved to amend by striking out all after the word "resolved" and inserting:

That there is no power of legislation granted

by the Constitution to the Congress of the United States to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, and that any attempt by Congress to legislate upon the subject of slavery, will be not only unauthorized, but dangerous to the union of the States.

Mr. Wise took this opportunity, he said, to bring the question directly before the House. He regarded both of the propositions of the Resolution as entirely evasive. Nothing would he said, satisfy the South, but a bold, direct and manly course. He wished to see how gentlemen would vote on his motion to amend, and who would move and sustain the previous question. Let us come up to the mark, said he, and let it be.

Mr. Gilcock, of Georgia, submitted the following Resolution, as an addition to the amendment, and

Mr. Wise accepted it as a modification of his own.

Resolved, That any attempt to agitate the question of Slavery in this House, is calculated to disturb the compromises of the Constitution,—to endanger the Union,—and if persisted in, to destroy, by a servile war, the peace and prosperity of the country.

Mr. Gilcock made a few remarks in favor of adopting such a course as would unite the South and the North on this question, and put an end to this distracting subject. He was not unwilling that some regulation should pass, declaring it to be the opinion of the House that Congress had not the power to legislate on the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia; but he knew that to be a doubtful question, as to which the most eminent of our jurists differed, and even the people of the South held conflicting opinions.

He had no disposition to ensure those of the North who might hold that Congress had the power in this District, and he would give them the more credit, on that account, for going with the South against all interference by Congress with the subject. It was the object of his resolution to soothe the exasperated feeling of the South and restore harmony to this House. It proposed all which the South required, and no more than they had a right to ask.

In committee of the whole on the state of the Union, a bill was taken up and reported, appropriating \$80,000, to defray the expenses of the Seminole war in Florida. Mr. Cambreleng stated that the Indians had ravaged a tract of country 80 miles in extent. A bill making appropriations in part for the support of government for 1836, embracing \$556,000 for the pay and mileage of members of Congress. The bill for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire in New York was then taken up, and Mr. Cambreleng addressed the House in favor of it. Mr. Hardin, of Kentucky, made some objections to the bill, and on his motion it was passed over for the purpose of having it printed.

The bill to carry into effect the Convention between the United States and Spain was taken up.

Mr. Mason of Va. explained the object of the bill. Mr. J. Q. Adams objected to the measure that on pretence of saving the expense of establishing a Board of Commissioners, according to the general usage, it devolved the duty upon the Attorney General, as the sole commissioner, and gave him a salary of 3,000 dollars for the duty, in addition to the privilege which the law allowed him of following a lucrative profession. It was a maxim ever present to the minds of statesmen: "obscure principle"—stop the first introduction of a bad principle. He was not prepared, in this manner, to multiply offices in the hands of one person.

The bill was passed over for the present.

The Committee then rose and reported the bill for the suppression of the hostilities of the Seminole Indians, and the bill making appropriations, in part, for the support of government in 1836: And the House adjourned.

IN SENATE—Thursday, Jan. 7.

Mr. Morris presented petitions from Ohio, praying for the abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia. As soon as they were presented,

Mr. Calhoun demanded that they should be read; and as soon as they had been read, he demanded that the question should be first taken on their reception, which he considered to be the preliminary question, which every Senator had a right to demand. He demanded on behalf of the State which he in part represented; on account of the false and malicious slanders which it contained against eleven States of the Union; because the discussions in the other House had produced a great agitation throughout the country; because it involved a violation of the Constitution, inasmuch as the question of emancipation was a question exclusively belonging to the several States, and over which Congress could exercise no right or power. He said he understood the movement, and that it was opened to make this the first step towards general emancipation, and that it ought to be resisted in *limine*. He did not fear incendiary publications, but he thought there was the greatest danger in the agitation of the subject here. He believed there was a body in other States, ready to second an insurrection of the blacks, and he desired to see some course which would put down that spirit. He was fearful lest it should tear asunder the Union, for the more a spirit of that character was permitted to prevail, the more closely would the Southern people cling to their interests and domestic institutions. They would never submit to such interference, and the true course was at once to put an end to these petitions by shewing that they would not be received. Any other course would give them importance, and thus the abolitionists well understood.

Mr. Morris made a few remarks, in which he maintained the sacred character of the right of petition, and declared that the people had a right to put their feet on the Constitution and demand its inviolability. He denied the right of Congress to interfere with the question of Slavery in the States, but asserted the power of exclusive legislation over the District of Columbia, and any doctrine which denied the existence of that power was new to him, and would not be received in the State in which he resided. He considered the claiming of the power to prescribe to the people, how, when and on what subjects, they were to petition, as turning the right of petition into a mere mockery; and that Congress could exercise no discretion beyond the condition that the petitions should be worded in respectful terms.

Mr. Porter replied, that the only part of the remarks of the Senator in which he acquiesced was, that these petitioners put their feet on the Constitution, which they had clearly done when they urged such a measure on Congress. No man had a

higher regard for the right of petition than he had, but he did not see how the course of the Senator from South Carolina, which he intended to support, was any restraint upon that right. If the people had a right to present their petitions, the right was preserved to Congress to receive or to reject them, just as much as to say they shall or shall not be granted; and it was the duty of Congress to reject any petition which asked for a violation of the Constitution. Unless these petitions are rejected, they might expect to be presented day after day, keeping a large portion of the country in constant and dangerous agitation, and yet when they attempted to put a check on the ladies and gentlemen who sent these petitions, they were to be told that they denied the right of petition; they were to be charged thus because they could not sit there and suffer themselves to be branded as robbers and murderers. If the persons who sent these petitions really possessed the religious feelings which they professed, he desired to see more of them exhibited in their language and their acts, and not to be striving to take away from their fellow citizens the property which belonged to them, in many cases, the only pittance of the widow and the orphan, and when they did this, he should call on every Southern member to put his feet on the petition, and not on the Constitution.

Mr. Preston reminded the Senate of what was said by the Chairman of Committee on the District of Columbia, two years ago, that when these petitions were referred to that Committee, no more would be heard of them, that it would be to them a Lion's den, from which there would be no feet prints to show that any thing returned. But the Southern States were now in that situation that they demanded some more explicit action, especially after the occurrences of the last summer. Incendiary publications had inundated the Southern States, and the apostles of abolition were roaming abroad in every direction. Thus a dread had been struck into every Southern bosom in regard to the security of their property; and now the Senate was urged to act indirectly on the subject, through the District of Columbia. He could not sit and bear the powers of government invoked on this subject, not that he feared the action of the government, which could not interfere by law or by physical force, for the South would defend her rights to the last, by her voice, and, if needful, by her arm. She was bound by an inexorable necessity to defend her rights by all the means which God and nature had put into her hands. He implored gentlemen to look at her condition, and to see that the effect of this interference would be to wrap her cities in flames, and cover her fields with blood. Mr. P. continued at considerable length to depict the consequences which would result from the course which he now wished to check.

Mr. Buchanan declared his conviction that Congress had no power to interfere with the domestic policy of the slave-holding States, although he admitted, that on the abstract question of slavery he felt just as the State did which he assisted to represent. He said that he had for some time kept in his drawer the annual memorial of the Society of Friends, on this subject, and he regretted that he could not acquiesce in their opinions on the subject. He suggested that from the feeling of the Senate, there was good reason to believe that some union might be effected upon some measure, satisfactory to all, if the discussion were postponed until Monday, and concluded with a motion to that effect.

Mr. Benton coincided in this suggestion, and exhibited a picture which had been thrown into his room, exhibiting a tree of liberty, with a crowd of colored people underneath it in degraded attitudes. He warned the abolitionists that these pictures would result in consequences which their lives would not remedy, and stated that a settlement of quiet colored people had been just driven from the vicinity of St. Louis, through the interference of these fanatics, and were now seeking a home where they could find it.

Mr. Tyler was of the opinion that the motion of the Senator from South Carolina did not go far enough to correct the practice of sending petitions here, as the rejection of the petitions might be represented as merely owing to the indecorum of the language, and not a decision of the Senate not to admit petitions of the same kind hereafter, as it did not touch the question of the competency of Congress. He wished to see some specific and explicit resolution on the subject, which should set the question forever at rest. He would have sent the petitions to the District Committee, who would have reported such a resolution, and he believed, with the exception of the Senator from Ohio, that every Senator would vote for it. Virginia, he said, was able to defend herself in the open day, but she had to fear the midnight incendiary and assassin.

Mr. Brown complimented the Southern gentlemen on the tone of their opinions, and said he feared nothing from that quarter if the Southern Senators did not provoke agitating discussions. He contrasted the silent manner in which a similar petition, a few days ago, was laid on the table, with the scene of excitement which was now exhibited, and insisted that the more the subject was stirred, the more difficult it would be to put it down.

Mr. Leigh, postponing any remarks he should make on the principal subject until the question should again come up, adverted to the pain he had felt in consequence of some extracts sent to him from a review by Dr. Channing, and said that if many of that gentleman's admirers participated in his opinions on this subject, (judging from the extracts) there was more danger than he had previously believed.

Mr. Benton and Mr. Calhoun, in explanation and reply, went more at large into the subject, principally to repel the charge made by Mr. Brown.

The motion was then postponed till Monday.

The bill making appropriation for suppressing hostilities with the Seminole Indians, was received from the House, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Finance. Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Relations with Mexico.—Mr. J. Q. Adams rose to address an inquiry to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, on the subject of our relations with Mexico. He held in his hand a morning paper, (the Intelligence) in which there were statements of a momentous character on that subject. He handed the paper to the Clerk, who, for the information of the House, read the article headed, "The United States and Mexico."

Mr. Adams said, the inquiry was whether the Committee on Foreign Affairs had received any information from the Government on the subject

of the relations, political or commercial, between the United States and Mexico.

Mr. Mason of Virginia, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, replied that no communication had been made to the Committee on the subject of our relations, political or commercial, with Mexico. His attention was called yesterday, to the statement, in a letter which appeared in the papers that a considerable failure had taken place in New Orleans, on account of some act of the Mexican Government. He had called at the office of the Secretary of State, and found that no information had been received there on the subject.

Mr. Adams said he would give notice that unless the information should be communicated to the House to day or on Monday next, he should submit a proposition on the subject.

On motion of Mr. Hardin, who complained that the Western people had not a fair chance to present their petitions, and who remarked that the green valleys of the Ohio were as much entitled to be heard as the green mountains of Vermont; the House proceeded to receive petitions, beginning where they left off on Monday last.

The following account of the legacy lately left to our General Government for the foundation of a literary institution, is from the correspondent of the Boston Daily Advertiser. The writer is in error, however, in stating that the Hugh Smithson in whose favor the title of the Percy family were revived, was a descendant of the old Percies. In point of fact, he became connected with them only by marrying the female representative of the family, the male heirs having become extinct; and he subsequently dropped the name of Smithson, and assumed the name and arms of Percy. The Smithson who has left this legacy, must have been a whole or half-brother of the Lord Percy who at the breaking out of our revolution figured in the retreat of the British troops from Concord, and who died in England (having succeeded to his father's dukedom) in 1817.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1836.

The President has communicated official information to Congress of the large donation, of which there was talk last autumn, made by an Englishman for the foundation of a literary institution; and as the facts are a little curious, I give you what I have learned on the subject.

You may, perhaps, be aware that the male line of the old Percies of the house of Northumberland is extinct. The estates devolved, during the last century, upon Hugh Smithson, a descendant of the family in the female line, in whose favor the title was revived; and the present Duke of Northumberland is of this family of Smithsons.

This Sir Hugh Smithson, first Duke of Northumberland of the family, had a son, James Smithson, by his wife Elizabeth, heiress of the Hungerfords of Audley, and niece of Charles the proud, Duke of Somerset, well known to memoir-readers and to persons conversant with the personal history of eminent Englishmen.

James Smithson died, bequeathing all his property to his bankers, in trust, that the property should be enjoyed during life, by his nephew, Henry James Hungerford, and descend to his children if he had any, if not, then to the United States of America, to found, at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

The will is dated the 22d of Oct. 1826. Henry James Hungerford came into the enjoyment of the property, receiving an income of £4000 sterling per annum, and lately died without issue. Thereupon his solicitors notified Mr. Vail of the existence of the will, informing him at the same time, that the property consisted of stocks to the amount of £100,000 sterling, which stand in the name of the Accountant General of Chancery, awaiting the claim of the United States.

The subject has been referred in the House to a committee, of which Mr. Adams is chairman.

RUTLAND CO. CONVENTION.

Pursuant to public notice a large and respectable meeting to the democratic citizens of Rutland County was held at the Court House in Rutland on the first inst.

The meeting was temporarily organized by the appointment of Col. A. Mitchell as President and H. B. Towselee Esq. Sec'y.

On motion of J. C. Sawyer Esq. all persons from other counties friendly to the democratic cause were invited to participate in the proceedings of the Convention.

After a recess the meeting convened at 2 o'clock P. M.

J. C. Sawyer, M. M. Strong, W. H. Keeler, J. C. Thrall, C. B. Harrington were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the meeting.—Gen. Jonas Clark, Col. Warren, C. B. Harrington, G. Cheney 2d, Col. Crocker, E. W. Drury and M. M. Strong Esqs. were appointed a committee to present resolutions.

J. C. Dexter, E. W. Drury and M. M. Strong Esqs. were appointed a committee to report measures necessary to be adopted for the establishment of a democratic press in Rutland County.

The committee appointed to nominate officers presented the following who were appointed:

GEN. JONAS CLARK, President

ALANSON MITCHELL, BARNARD KETCHAM, DAVID BARTLETT, COL. WARREN, HENRY HOLDEN, Vice Presidents.

W. Keeler, H. B. Towselee, secretaries.

The Committee on Resolutions presented the following which were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That we heartily approve of the nomination of Hon. Martin Van Buren for President of the United States by the democratic republican Convention held at Baltimore, and his talents, as a Statesman and his republican principles, eminently qualify him for that high station, and entitle him to the confidence of the people.

Resolved, That we hail with equal pleasure the nomination of the Hon. Richard M. Johnson, for Vice President,—that as a philanthropist—a republican—he is entitled to the confidence of the people of the United States, and that we will use all honorable means to secure the election of both the nominees above-mentioned.

Resolved, That we heartily approve of the course which President Jackson has pursued towards France, that the dignified stand he has taken is worthy of the Chief magistrate of a powerful Republic, and that he is entitled to the unanimous support of a patriotic People whose rights have been grossly violated.

Resolved, That we do not regard the question between France and this country, as merely invol-

ving the loss or gain of twenty-five million francs—that we consider our National Honor at stake;—and that however much we may regret any collision with France we believe it highly important that we should show the world, that our national rights may not be violated with impunity.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the United States Bank—that we view with utter disapprobation its conduct towards the Government and the public press of the country; and that we believe every true Patriot is called upon to sustain the President in his opposition to that dangerous monopoly.

Resolved, That the administration of Andrew Jackson has been one which has greatly tended to bring back the Government to the sound democratic principles upon which it was administered by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. That under his administration the country has arrived at an unexampled state of prosperity and that his whole political course as Chief Magistrate has been marked by a patriotism integrity and firmness which entitle him to the lasting gratitude of the people.

Resolved, That the extinguishment of the national debt is an event of which every American may be justly proud and that it presents this nation, and its institutions in a most commanding and salutary point of light before the world.

Resolved, That we particularly invite the people of Vermont to examine the character and qualifications of the nominees of the Baltimore Convention, that identified as we believe our political interests to be, with their election, it would be a suicidal policy for us to oppose them particularly when the opposing candidate, for the Presidency, who has the best chance of success, is brought forward solely because he is a southern man, and will act with an exclusive view to Southern interests, but that at the same time we do not urge Mr. Van Buren's claims because he is a northern man, but because we believe he will act with a view to the interests of the whole Union.

Resolved, That the course which patriotism dictates to the people of Vermont in the approaching Presidential election, is to secure their Political interests, regardless of personal attachment—that their motto should be—"Principles not Men."

Resolved, That we will use all honorable means in our power to secure the triumph of the republican party in this state at the approaching election, inscribed as its banner is with "opposition to all measures calculated to sacrifice the interests of the many for the benefits of the few" and "uncompromising hostility to relief of barbarism which authorizes imprisonment for debt."

Resolved, That we consider it highly important that the doctrines of the present administration in regard to a gold and silver currency, and a curtailment of the paper circulation, should be carried into practice by the immediate action of the Legislature of the several States.

In support of the foregoing resolutions the meeting was addressed by Messrs. Strong, Drury, Keeler, and others.

The committee on the subject of the establishment of a democratic press in Rutland County presented the following resolutions which were adopted.

Resolved, That the interests of the Republican cause in the county of Rutland imperiously require the establishment of a newspaper devoted to the election of Martin Van Buren and Richard M. Johnson to the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States, in some place in the county, and that the Village of East Rutland or Castleton would be a suitable location.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed whose duty it shall be to superintend the expenditure of such sum or sums of money as may be raised for the purpose of establishing a press in the County of Rutland and generally to lend their advice and assistance in the management of the same.

J. C. Dexter, E. W. Drury, M. M. Strong, T. J. Omesbee, Saml. Moulton, Esqs. were appointed said committee.

After the proceedings had been ordered by a vote to be printed at the Vt. Argus Rutland Herald, Castleton Statesman, and Middlebury Free Press the meeting was dissolved.

JONAS CLARK, President.

ALANSON MITCHELL, BARNARD KETCHAM, DAVID BARTLETT, COL. WARREN, HENRY HOLDEN, Vice Presidents.

W. H. KEELER, } Secretaries.

H. B. TOWSELEE, }

PAINTER ACCIDENT.—Last evening, a little past

one o'clock, a party consisting of seven persons, who had been to attend the wedding of a friend in Westbury, were returning into town in a double sleigh, when descending the hill in Strout-water village, the sleigh slowed round, broke one of the runners and threw them all out. Miss Nancy Winslow, aged about 26, daughter of Mr. Albert Winslow, was taken up speechless, carried into a neighboring house and expired about ten o'clock this morning. One other lady, we understand, was somewhat injured, though not dangerously.—Portland Daily Courier.

LAND OFFICE FRAUDS.—The Louisiana Courier states that frauds to a very great extent have been committed in the State, by entering lands on forged claims, sustained by perjury. The Courier says: "So extensive have these frauds been, as our information induces us to believe, that there is not an acre of land west of the Mississippi, and south of Red river, that has not been covered."

ASSAULT.—A farmer once hired a Vermontee to assist in drawing logs. The Yankee, when there was a log to lift, generally contrived to secure the smallest end, for which the farmer chastised him, and told him always to take the butt end. Dinner came and with it a sugar loaf Indian pudding. Jonathan sliced off a generous portion of the largest part and giving the farmer a wink exclaimed, "always take the butt end."

Joseph W. Robinson, of Brewer, Me. 17 years of age, hung himself in his room last week. He was a student in Brewer Academy. He had openly declared his determination to commit suicide, assigning as the reason, that in consequence of lameness, he should always be despised. He was otherwise a promising and much esteemed youth.

The store and goods of S. W. Stone & Co. at Perkinsville, Vt. were consumed by fire on the morning of the 29th ult. Loss \$9000—insured in the Mutual \$2010.